

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - - EDITOR.

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Among the "prominent citizens" who feel the need of a special session is Colonel Mazuma.

What assurance is there, if the Home Rulers got another chance at general law-making, that they would not spend the first thirty days of the session in legislating for lady cats?

Annexation to California is indeed a pipe dream but the poor pipe-dreamers don't know it. They will, though, when they hear from the anti-Chinese party of the San Francisco sandlots.

It can't be that the legislative Home Rulers knew what they were about when they passed a law compelling themselves as well as other people to reveal the sources of their incomes.

No one knows how many hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes last night's gale blew out to sea but every one knows that the available supply of the insect pests will not be visibly less. Come what may the mosquitoes, like the poor, are always with us.

The Advertiser long since urged a duty on coffee and is glad to see that the Legislature has taken the matter up with the idea of memorializing Congress. Such a duty would vastly stimulate the coffee-growing industry here and in Porto Rico, assuming that our West Indian neighbor would get the benefit of it. As coffee culture is now an American industry, economic protection is its natural right.

At this writing all hope of the recovery of Wm. C. Wilder is ended. The apoplectic blow he received was a fatal one and his death is only a question of hours. Elsewhere we give the leading facts of his career which was typically American in all its aspects. Mr. Wilder began in poverty and his life ends in affluence; and while winning his way upward he stopped to fight for his imperiled country, serving as a gallant soldier of the Civil War. As a citizen of Hawaii his influence has been steadily though quietly exerted for good government and he did not hesitate, when a crisis came, to risk life and property in the fight for annexation.

THE NEW CHINA.

Minister Conger will sail for China on the 17th of this month to resume his diplomatic functions. While his future experiences in Peking may not be so exciting as those of the recent past the probability that they will be fraught with supreme historic interest is one that doubtless tempted him to give up the idea of peace with honor in Iowa. It is something to be in at the birth of a new nation but vastly more to witness the awakening of an old one, the reincarnation of its political life, the arousal of a giant, full-panoplied for the struggles of existence. There are few more absorbing chapters in civil history than the new birth of Japan; there will be few more imposing ones than the new birth of China.

One of the late dispatches from the Orient said that, early in October, the Emperor will arrive at Peking "by train" and take the reins of government. If he comes, as he must, sooner or later, he will be recognized by the powers as the one and only sovereign of China. The Empress Dowager will not be tolerated and this would mean that the young Kwang Hsu would have way and room to carry out the splendid plans which he decreed so long ago in the teeth of palace enemies that nearly cost him his life. His coming by train would be most significant of the new era, for it is doubtful that he ever saw cars in motion before his hurried exit from the capital. He would come as a ruler intent on making China as far as possible a modern State; to seek instruction for it in Western science and art; to give it new industries, new life, new ambitions and hopes. Like Richelieu, who recreated France and from the ashes of a feudal State evoked the soaring spirit of civilization, the young Emperor may live to see, as the fruit of his example and his toils, a regenerated China, holding aloft the lighted torch of progress and earning the confidence and respect of the world.

To see the beginnings of the new era and to help in shaping it will be a privilege which few diplomats could wish to avoid and which Minister Conger may enjoy to the full.

QUACK REMEDIES.

The eagerness of the ring papers to have another session of the Legislature is readily accounted for. In the first place they are able, while the Legislature is running, to get public printing without bids and at a price from fifteen to thirty per cent higher than better work would cost elsewhere. So the more Legislature the more profit. In the second place these journals want county government and want it quickly, for that means not only more printing, at extravagant prices, but the entrenchment of the ring in new offices.

If a special session of the Legislature is to be called, the County Government bill and the Municipal bill are certain to be re-introduced and pushed; and it is doubtful, under such circumstances, if anything could be got in the way of a Territorial revenue measure. "Let the counties and cities raise their own revenues," would be the slogan; "there is enough now for decentralized Territorial purposes." As a net result of the special session Hawaii might have three forms of government where there is now one form, and find itself compelled to support all the tax-eaters and carpet-baggers and heelers who have attached themselves, like parasites, to the body politic.

On the whole we are better off as we are. It will be embarrassing to feed our domestic stock on short commons but less so than to raise grass at big expense for the sole use of the wild cattle of politics. The Territory can get along fairly well until a chance comes to elect a Legislature which will have the public interests at heart. The last election went by default owing to the apathy of the men who had most at stake in these Islands. It will not happen again. The people who pay the bills will have most to say about the bills to be paid or know the reason why. To wait upon their pleasure seems to be the best wisdom in current politics.

PROBABLE EFFECTS.

"Were we to annex Hawaii," remarks the Argonaut for California, "this interesting group of volcanic postulates would take up the entire time of our Legislature to the exclusion of our own affairs."

That may do as a California plea against the measure but the argument here is quite the reverse. Nothing would have less attention at Sacramento than the affairs of islands 2,000 miles away and having no historic, climatic, political, agricultural nor geographical relation to California. When the obscure member from Kauai wanted an appropriation for a dam in some unpronounceable stream or urged a bill to restrain some many-voweled corporation from interfering with riparian rights, he would be laughed off the floor. There would be more money on occasion for the Farallones than for Kauai. True, we should be treated as a leper colony, and compelled to take all of California's rotting denizens, and a small sum might be voted for their care, but that is about all we should get from Sacramento.

Apart from naval and military appropriations, not much more could be had from Congress. As a Territory Hawaii is entitled to a fair share of national aid; as a county or counties of any Coast State it would be separately entitled to nothing. Suppose, for example, Hilo asked for a breakwater and Honolulu for the dredging of Kailua bay as an annex to its own crowding harbor. No special appropriation could be made for these objects without the assent of the seven Congressmen and two Senators from California; and these have their own ballwicks to look after. Port Los Angeles wants millions more; San Francisco wants a million or two; the San Joaquin wants a ship canal. No Californian would deduct a nickel from these claims for the benefit of Hilo; and as for Honolulu all California fears that this port would get the best end of the Nicaragua canal trade and would like nothing better than the right to interfere with its improvement.

So the argument that Hawaii, if merged with California, would take up legislative time either at Sacramento or Washington is absurd. Instead of that the Islands would virtually disappear from legislation.

PRINTING THAT PAYS.

Mr. Prendergast, whose name is associated, between lunches, with printing rebates, wants to stuff the Journal of the House with the Constitution of the United States and with the Organic Act of Hawaii. As a means of adding pages, at so much per page, to work which ought to yield rebates ad libitum, we know of nothing better. But why stop at organic laws? Why not inject into the body of the Journal the common law, the statute law and the ordinances of the Board of Health? They are all referred to more or less in the debates and really the absorbed reader of one of Prendergast's speeches ought not to be refused a convenient glimpse at the codes to which—since he became a lawyer—he so readily refers.

The thought strikes us that it might not be amiss to also include the Ten Commandments. They might be thrown in as something spicy and readable, something to attract and interest men who never saw them before. To save the susceptibilities of the Tramway statesmen it might be well to leave out the commandment against stealing and one or two more, but the remainder should be printed in the Journal without change. The Book of Exodus would come in handy also as a preparation for that final leave-taking of the Home Rule solons which must occur so soon. And then it would make a big bill.

Seeing how reluctant the Printing Committee is to let any chance to incur printing bills escape, may we not suggest that it report in favor of an appendix to the Journal for Home Rule biographies. Let us know where the Mossman-Prendergast crowd came from. That would be an interesting study for future Darwinists. As to where they are going everybody knows that.

FRENCH FETE'DAY.

The French national fete day—July 14—occurs next Sunday, although there will be little or no celebration of the event in Honolulu. In San Francisco preparations are going apace for a proper observance. The fete is also known as the "Fall of the Bastille," on account of the notorious French prison for political captives dating from the time of Louis XIII having been demolished by revolutionary mobs in 1789, commencing with July 14.

In 1639, by order of Charles V. Hughes Aubriot, provost of Paris, began to convert the two towers which flanked the gate of St. Antoine into a fortress of eight towers, connected by thick-curtained walls, the whole being surrounded by a moat twenty-five feet wide. Later alterations left the main features of this structure still dominant, and to this fortress the name "Bastille" gradually became restricted. State prisoners were occasionally confined in the Bastille, according to a general French use of fortifications. The Frondeurs held possession of it for three years from 1649, and it was there the great Comte de Turenne when Turenne attacked Paris in 1652. Henry IV used it as the Royal treasury. Among the early traditions is the story that the architect, Aubriot, was incarcerated for heresy within its walls. The Duc de Nemours was confined there for thirteen years in an iron cage. During the reign of Louis XIII the prison became the receptacle for State prisoners. It had accommodations for about eighty prisoners in its cells and was often overcrowded during the reigns of Louis XIV and XV. The stories of the cruelties practiced there are not well borne out by recent investigation. The term of incarceration which might elapse before a prisoner was released, either by royal command or by trial and acquittal, was undetermined, and many a poor fellow grew old in the cells without learning why he was detained. Convicts were treated with the strictness and brutality of the times.

The better class of prisoners had certain comforts, could receive visitors and had open-air exercise on the galleries, except in cases of State importance. Among the famous inmates of this building were the "Man in the Iron Mask," Fouquet, the Marshal Richelieu, De Sacy, Voltaire, Labouderonnals, Cardinal Rohan and La Chalotais. There were incarcerations of able and upright men under arbitrary rule which were cruel and unjust and in this way the Bastille became a symbol of despotic government in the revolutionary year of 1789.

It was attacked by the insurgents on

July 14, who killed Delauney, the Governor, and several officers and captured the place. Three unknown prisoners and four forgers were set free. The next day the demolition of the fortress began. A bronze column on the site commemorates the destruction.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Real Origin of Golf.

An old friend sends me the following clipping from the Historical Magazine of December, 1883. The article appeared under the heading, "Extinct Popular Games." Among the favorite games brought to this country from Holland by the Dutch was that called "golf." It was played with a small ball and a bat or club crooked at the lower end. He who drove the ball into a series of small holes in the ground with the fewest strokes was the winner. In 1659 a law was enacted against playing at golf in the streets of Port Orange (Albany) on account of the damage done to the windows and the danger of being wounded, to which people were thereby exposed. "Hurling" in England and Ireland is a game or exercise somewhat similar, but in the latter the ball is driven so as to run between two posts at each end of the field, each party contending to drive it between its opponent's posts. E. B. O'C.

Fancy Dogs.

"One of the marks of the real Chihuahua dog," said a man from the Southwest the other day, "is a depression, almost a hole in the skull between the eyes. They have large skulls and ears, and slender, graceful bodies. The wife of President Diaz has one which is considered the finest in the world, principally on account of its diminutive size. It weighs only three-fourths of a pound, and is said to have cost \$800 American gold. This, of course, to Diaz. It would have cost an American \$5,000. A famous comic opera star paid \$1,500 for one in El Paso some years ago when I was there. She secured a very fine specimen, but the Mexican who owned the dog probably received less than one-third of the amount."

Change by the Hundredweight.

A Honduras correspondent of the Boston Herald writes: "Having occasion to use some money in the interior, I went to the local banker, and, taking a single United States bill from my vest pocket to purchase the same, was asked, 'Is your mule at the door?' My reply was, 'He is ready.' And for the single bill, weighing less than one-quarter of an ounce, I was obliged to load the mule with 150 pounds of silver money and transport it some ninety miles into the interior. Surely, the 16 to 1 doctrine is soon knocked out of even the most rabid silver man after a short experience in this country, and you can't get rid of the burden, as the entire business is carried on with this silver currency."

The Dear Girls Were Extravagant.

The little town of Lincoln, in Middlesex county, N. J., will soon be no more legally, and largely on account of women. On July 10 the entire town will be sold at auction by Frederick C. Wobert, who has been named by the court as receiver. The town was organized by a real estate syndicate, and was not incorporated. One of the prime movers suggested that women be elected to serve as members of council. Soon the fair sex were in control of the municipal government, and running things to suit themselves. And so it happened that they ran the town into debt and into the bankruptcy courts.

Enterprising Yankee Banks.

Every local banking institution in Burlington, Vt., advertises in the local papers with as much spirit and enterprise as a department store. The Merchants' Bank (one of the oldest and most conservative in the State) changes its "ads" every day, and, besides telling what it can do for people, gives them good advice which leads them to save money.

Contains Queen Elizabeth's Letters.

According to a London newspaper a bag is preserved in the Rolls office containing a number of letters and documents once belonging to Queen Elizabeth, and never opened since her death. It may only be examined with the joint consent of the reigning sovereign, the archbishop of Canterbury and the lord chancellor.

"Coin" Harvey Redivivus.

"Coin" Harvey, who has become a citizen of Benton county, Ark., is going to make the race for Congressman in the Third Arkansas District. Harvey has come to the front as a promoter of an old-time fiddlers' contest, given at Monteha, Ark., on June 20.

We Buy Much Food Abroad.

Despite our ability to feed the world the world is doing considerable toward feeding us. The total value of all agricultural produce imported into the United States in 1900 was \$420,139,283, that year being the record year of five. The annual average was \$376,369,268.

A Curate Famine.

A famine in curates threatens the Church of England, it is reported. One reason is that young men see no future for them in holy orders. Once a curate always a curate is the fate that threatens the majority.

Too Ugly to Serve as a Soldier.

A French conscript has just been excused from three years' service because of ugliness. It was held that his appearance would make his comrades laugh, and thus interfere with discipline.

HON. W. C. WILDER IS LYING AT THE POINT OF DEATH.

(Continued from Page 1.)

cratic party, he declined to serve. A month or two ago he was excused, on a doctor's certificate, from jury duty. On Tuesday when he was stricken, Mr. Wilder had been at his office all day. He went home, bathed and shaved and was preparing for supper when the stroke came. Drs. Wood and McDonald were called but they could do nothing. All the family were at the sick man's bedside last night, except Judge Gardner Wilder, who was in Hawaii. A wireless message advising him of his father's condition was sent and he is expected home tomorrow.

W. C. Wilder was married on the 12th of November, 1861, to Miss Eliza Scott, who survives him. They have four sons, ex-Judge Gardner Wilder, Charles T. Wilder, former Hawaiian Consul at San Francisco; W. C. Wilder, Jr., and Harry Wilder. The beautiful homestead of the family is on Pensacola street.

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W. P. Keeton, Woodstock, Ala., took Hood's Sarsaparilla to make his blood pure. He writes that he had not felt well but tired for some time. Before he had finished the first bottle of this medicine he felt better and when he had taken the second was like another man—free from that tired feeling and able to do his work.

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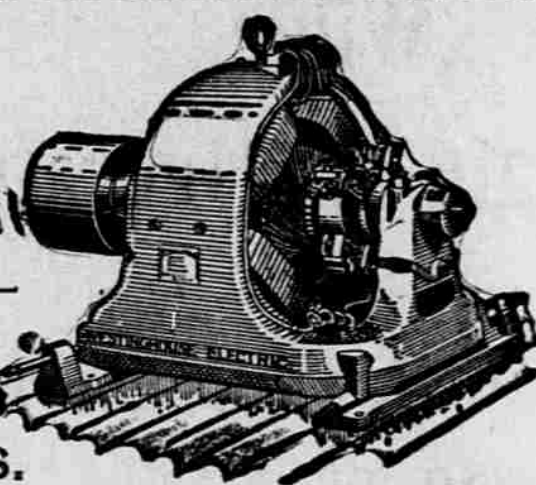
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